Listing of the Claims:

1. (Withdrawn) A method for forming a sealed joint between two thin walled metallic pipe ends of an overhead pipe system for enclosing a plurality of fluid conduits comprising the steps of:

positioning the two pipe ends with an alignment device in an abutted end to end orientation;

applying a sealer tape to the abutted ends of the two pipes; and

clamping a steel coupling over the sealer tape which renders the sealed joint leak proof and provides structural integrity.

2. (Withdrawn) The method of claim, wherein the steps of holding and cutting the thin walled pipe comprises the steps of:

installing the thin walled pipe into a vice apparatus;

using a vice apparatus having a first semi-tubular member pivotally clamped to a second semi-tubular member at a hinge, said second semi-tubular member having a length less than the length of the first semi-tubular member and positioned at one end of the first semi-tubular member, said second end having an aperture proximate to the other end for receiving a post for connecting said vice apparatus to a support structure and dowel members for aligning the first semi-tubular member to the support structure.

3. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of aligning the two pipe ends comprises the step of:

providing an alignment device having a pair of cylindrical clamps communicating with each other via a handle, wherein each end of the handle is connected to one of the cylinder clamps for maintaining said clamps in a fixed, spaced and parallel relationship to each other.

4. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 3, wherein the step of aligning the two pipe ends further comprises the steps of:

closing one of the cylinder clamps around the first of the two pipes and aligning the end of the first pipe to a mark on the handle, and closing the other cylinder clamp around the second of the two pipes and aligning the end of the second pipe to the mark on the handle.

5. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of applying a sealer tape includes the step of:

using a sealer tape made of foam closed cell substance and having an adhesive with a normal tensile strength to aluminum at room temperature of at least 50 lbs/in^2.

6. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

using a metallic pipe made of one of an aluminum alloy, galvanized steel, and copper.

7. (Withdrawn) A system for forming a sealed joint between two thin aluminum pipe ends of an overhead pipe system for enclosing a plurality of fluid conduits, the system comprising:

means for positioning the two pipe ends in an abutted end to end orientation with an alignment holder;

a steel coupling;

a sealer tape for applying to the abutted ends; and

means for clamping the stainless steel coupling over the sealer tape to render the sealed joint leak proof and to provide structural integrity.

8. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 7, wherein the alignment device comprises a pair of clamps spaced from each other and communicating with each other via a handle.

9. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 8, wherein the clamps of the alignment device can selectively open and close around a pipe having a predetermined size.

10. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 9, wherein the pair of clamps align the two pipe ends in a parallel relationship.

11. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 7, wherein the sealer tape has the properties of being made of a foam closed cell substance having a normal tensile strength to aluminum at room temperature of at least 50 lbs/in^2.

12. (Currently Amended) A sealed joint for an overhead pipe system for a fluid distribution system, the sealed joint comprising:

a pair of adjacent thin wall metallic pipes having smooth interior and exterior surfaces and end portions, each end portion having a squared cut terminal end and a rounded cross-sectional configuration, wherein a pair of the pipe squared cut terminal ends of the adjacent pipes are positioned in a parallel and an end to end relationship to each other, and wherein the pair of the pipe squared cut terminal ends essentially abut each other ;

a strip of a double-sided adhesive, closed-cell acrylic foam tape wherein a portion of the strip is applied ~~only~~ around and over the exterior surfaces of ~~the pair~~ each of the abutting pipe squared cut terminal ends, and wherein the strip of double-sided adhesive, closed-cell acrylic foam tape has a first end and a second end and said second end forms an overlap ~~of~~ over the first end and contacts the first end ~~around the pair of said pipe ends~~; and

a coupling clamped over the double-sided adhesive, closed-cell acrylic foam tape.

13. (Currently Amended) The sealed joint of claim 12, wherein the coupling has ~~means for clamping said coupling~~ clampable ends and wherein the ~~means for clamping is~~ clampable ends are positioned and secured together over the overlap of the double-sided adhesive, closed-cell acrylic foam tape.

14. (Currently Amended) The sealed joint of claim 12, wherein the pair of abutting pipe squared cut terminal ends are butted as close together as possible and a portion of the strip of double-side adhesive, closed-cell acrylic foam tape is secured to the exterior surfaces of each of the adjacent pipes for providing a sealed joint.

15. (Withdrawn) A vice apparatus for securely holding a pipe over a workstation during a cutting process so that the pipe is not crushed, the apparatus comprising:

a cradle for holding the pipe;

means for connecting the apparatus in a cantilever style above the workstation;

means for selectively securing the pipe in the cradle; and

means for aligning the cradle over the workstation.

16. (Withdrawn) The vice apparatus of claim 15, wherein the means for aligning the cradle over the workstation includes dowels for disposing between the workstation and the cradle, said dowels having an arcuate surface for receiving a portion of the cradle.

17. (Withdrawn) The vice apparatus of claim 16, wherein the means for connecting the apparatus in a cantilever style includes a post connectable to the cradle at one end of the post and to the workstation at the other end of the post.

18. (Withdrawn) An alignment device for securing and aligning the ends of two pipes, the alignment device comprising:

a pair of pipe clamps spaced from each other by a handle attached to each pipe clamp, said pipe clamps each having an open position and closed position.

19. (Withdrawn) The alignment device of claim 18, wherein each of the pipe clamps has essentially a circular configuration when said pipe clamp is in the closed position, and said circular configuration of one pipe clamp is parallel to the circular configuration of the other pipe clamp.

20. (Withdrawn) The alignment device of claim 19, wherein the handle has a mark thereon for indicating the position of the end of the pipe when said pipe is secured in the pipe clamp.

21. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

holding the thin walled pipe;

cutting the thin walled pipe ends for properly squaring each pipe end;

rounding each squared pipe end with a mandrel for providing uniform pipe ends; and

installing the steel coupling proximate to one end of one of the pipes.

22. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 7 further comprising:

means for holding the thin metallic pipe;

means for cutting the pipe ends for properly squaring the ends; and

means for rounding each squared pipe end.

23. (Withdrawn) A seal joint for an overhead pipe system for a fluid distribution system manufactured according to the method of claim 1 comprising:

a pair of thin wall metallic pipe ends, each having a squared cut end and a rounded cross-sectional configuration, said pair of pipe ends positioned in a parallel and an abutted end to end relationship to each other;

a sealer tape applied around the abutted pipe ends, wherein the sealer tape has a first end and a second end and said second end forms an overlap of the first end around said pipe ends; and

a steel coupling clamped over the sealer tape.

24. (Withdrawn) A system for forming a sealed joint between two thin aluminum pipe ends of an overhead pipe system for enclosing a plurality of fluid conduits and manufactured according to the method of claim 1, said system comprising:

means for positioning the two pipe ends in an abutted end to end orientation with an alignment holder;

a steel coupling;

a sealer tape for applying to the abutted ends; and

means for clamping the stainless steel coupling over the sealer tape to render the sealed joint leak proof and to provide structural integrity.

25. (Currently Amended) A sealed joint for an overhead pipe system for a beverage distribution system, the sealed joint comprising:

a pair of thin wall metallic pipes having axial lengths with smooth interior and exterior surfaces along the entire axial lengths, each pipe having ~~an end~~ extremities, wherein each pipe is positioned in a parallel and an end-to-end relationship to each other forming abutting extremities;

a double-sided adhesive, closed-cell acrylic foam tape having a normal tensile strength of at least 80 - 110 lbs./in^2 to aluminum at room temperature, wherein

a portion of said double-sided adhesive, closed-cell acrylic foam tape is wrapped around ~~only~~ the exterior surfaces of each of the ~~pipe ends~~ abutting extremities for providing a leakproof joint and a smooth interior surface at the joint;

and a coupling having clampable ends, clamped and secured together over the double-sided adhesive, closed-cell acrylic foam tape.

26. (Currently Amended) The seal joint of claim 25 wherein the double-sided adhesive, closed-cell acrylic foam tape is precut so that a second end of the precut tape overlaps over and contacts a first end of the precut tape around said pipe ~~ends~~ extremities forming an overlap approximately 3/16" - 1/4" long and at least one of the clampable ends has a tongue extending therefrom, wherein the ~~coupling has a clamping means~~ tongue is positioned directly over the overlap.

27. (Previously Presented) The sealing joint of claim 25, wherein the double-sided adhesive, closed-cell acrylic foam tape further provides a static sheer of at least 1000 grams at 72° and 500 grams at 150°F, has a peel adhesion rating for stainless steel at room temperature of at least 18 lbs./in.

28. (Cancelled).

29. (Currently Amended) The sealing joint of claim 27, wherein the double-sided adhesive, closed cell acrylic foam tape ~~can be applied to~~ is appliable on the pair of pipe ~~ends~~ extremities at a temperature as low as 32°F.

30. (Currently Amended) A sealed joint for an overhead pipe system for a beverage distribution system, the sealed joint comprising:

a pair of metallic pipes having smooth interior and exterior surfaces, the pair of metallic pipes each have ~~an~~ a terminal end abutted in an end-to-end relationship to each other;

a double-sided adhesive, closed-cell acrylic foam tape applied ~~only~~ around the exterior surfaces of each of the abutted terminal ends, wherein the adhesive foam tape has an axial length and the axial length of the tape is positioned essentially parallel to the abutted terminal ends, and wherein the adhesive foam tape has one end overlapping and secured to an opposing end of the tape forming an overlap; and

a coupling clamped over the acrylic foam tape, wherein said coupling has a pair of clampable ends secured together and tightened over the overlap of the tape and wherein the double-sided adhesive, closed-cell acrylic foam tape has the following properties: a peel adhesion rating of at least 18 lbs/in^2 at room temperature for stainless steel, a normal tensile strength to aluminum at room temperature of at least 50 lbs./in^2, a static sheer of at least 1000 grams at 72°F and of at least 500 grams at 150°F, a dynamic sheer of 40 lbs./in^2, a static sheer of 250 grams for 10,000 minutes and a temperature tolerance of at least 160°F.